

"Signed, Sealed, Delivered"

Further Studies in the Holy Spirit

"Sealed...



...unto the Day
of Redemption."

(Eph. 4:30b, KJV)

Valley Grace Brethren Church of Armagh, PA

Sunday, April 3rd, AD 2022

The LORD'S Day

The Third Day of April, *in the Year of our Lord* 2022

Welcome to the worship services of Valley Grace Brethren Church!

Sunday School—9:30 AM.



As we near the end of our studies the issue of “God & Government,” we focus upon those particular issues that should be of great interest unto the People of God as they seek to make a positive impact upon our native land.

Morning Worship—10:30 AM.

Call to Worship:* *“He is Lord”* (#21).

Invocation.*

Hymn: *“Heaven Came Down & Glory Filled my Soul”* (#183).

Prayer for Tithes & Offerings.

Scripture Reading: 2 Cor. 5:1-9.

Prayer, Praises, & Testimony.

Hymn: *“A New Name in Glory”* (#189).

Announcemnts.

Hymn: *“Since Jesus Came into my Heart”* (#259).

Dismissal of Youth for Children's Church.

Greeting One Another.

Message: *“TO EVERY CREATURE.”*

Closing Hymn:* *“Calvary Covers it All”* (#232).

Benediction.*



**The Congregation will please arise, if able.*



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Also check out our YouTube Channel (search "Terry Reese")!

Camp Mantowagan website: <https://www.campmantowagan.com>



Week of March 27-April 2

Sunday School—6; Morning Worship—I2

Midweek—5; Church Offering: \$466.⁰⁰

Wednesday Prayer & Bible Study—6:30 PM.

The Fall of the great King of Babylon in **Daniel 4** from a state of glory unto the state of a mindless **Beast-man** recapitulates the Fall of Adam (Gen. 3). *What*, exactly, did the **Fall** do to us, and how does God's grace effectually rescue us from our own inborn natural depravity (Eph. 2:1-9)?



Today's Verses for Reflection:

"Let no unwholesome word proceed from your mouth, but only such a word as is good for edification according to the need of the moment, so that it will give grace to those who hear. Do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption. Let all bitterness and wrath and anger and clamor and slander be put away from you, along with all malice."— Eph. 4:29-31 (NASB)

HOLY WEEK EVENTS

- Holy Communion: Palm Sunday, April 10, 6:00 PM
 - We celebrate the Threefold Communion of the Washing of Feet, the Agape Love Feast, and the Eucharist.
- Easter Sunday Order of Services (April 17):
 - Sunrise Service: 8:00 AM
 - Fellowship Breakfast: 8:30 AM
 - Morning Worship 9:30 AM



Signed, Sealed, & Delivered:

The Sealing of the Spirit & the Earnest of the Spirit

(Pastor Terry L. Reese, Valley GBC of Armagh; 4/3/22)

The *Sealing of the Spirit* is one of many grounds for the Believer's confidence in our **Eternal Security**. References to this ministry of the Spirit are found within **2 Cor. 1:22**, and **Eph. 1:13-14, 4:30**.

According to these Scriptures, God **seals us** and gives us the Spirit as a **pledge** (2 Cor. 1:22) when we believe (Eph. 1:13), and we remain sealed **unto the Day of Redemption** (Eph. 4:30).

In antiquity, physical seals were placed upon various items, signifying the concepts of **ownership, authority, and security** (Esth. 8:8, Matt. 27:66). In sealing us with His Spirit, God is stamping us with His mark of ownership; **we are HIS property!** The Spirit's presence in our lives gives us this security (Rom. 8:9).

Our security is also made evident in the **permanence** of the seal: we are sealed "*unto the day of redemption*" (Eph. 4:30), when we come to enjoy our eternal inheritance. Some have likened the concept to modern *registered mail* (i.e., sealed mail that can only be opened by either the Recipient, or, if returned, by the Sender). Here, *God* is the Sender, the Recipient, *and* the Seal. *He alone* can break the Seal—and *He has pledged not to do so!* This is demonstrated in the fact that this sealing is promised even unto those believers who may potentially grieve the Spirit (Eph. 4:30), such as the flock at Corinth (2 Cor. 1:22). The very thought of grieving Him, however, in light of His sealing ministry, *should* prompt us towards living in a manner that is pleasing to Him.

2 Cor. 1:22, 5:5, and Eph. 1:13-14 also inform us that the Spirit has been given as a **pledge** of our inheritance—as an "earnest."

The Greek term *arrhabōn* is used in reference to "*earnest-money*," which is given as a pledge, or down payment, that guarantees that the full amount will subsequently be paid. Likewise, the Spirit's Presence in our lives functions like "earnest money," in that God has bound and contracted Himself to complete the final "deal." Because the *token amount* has been paid (i.e., the gift of the Spirit's presence in our lives), it is thus guaranteed that the *whole sum* (i.e., the fullness of our redemption-experience) is ultimately forthcoming. The Spirit, therefore, is the pledge that our salvation will eventually be brought to full fruition and completion.